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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5301**

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**State of Washington**

**60th Legislature**

**2007 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Government Operations & Elections (originally sponsored by Senators Haugen and Rasmussen)

READ FIRST TIME 02/22/07.

1       AN ACT Relating to voluntary measures to protect critical areas;  
2 adding a new section to chapter 36.70A RCW; and creating a new section.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that there is a  
5 broadly held ethic among the citizens of the state that includes  
6 appreciation of nature and environmental values, and that citizens are  
7 willing to voluntarily undertake activities to protect and enhance  
8 environmental values at their homes and gardens, on land on which they  
9 live or work, and in their communities. The legislature finds that  
10 voluntary activities can be invaluable toward achieving the overall  
11 goal of protecting and enhancing the environment and that such  
12 activities should be given recognition as highly valued endeavors.

13       The legislature finds that there are successful programs that can  
14 be used as models, such as the "Shore Stewards Guide for Shoreline  
15 Living" jointly prepared by university extension faculty and local  
16 governments, that provide information on a broad array of actions that  
17 citizens can undertake that fits their unique conditions and interests.  
18 The legislature finds that better enabling citizens to undertake  
19 voluntary activities can in many circumstances be advantageous.

1       The purpose of this act is to encourage counties and cities to  
2 expand the availability and use of education, incentives, and other  
3 programs to help implement the comprehensive plans and development  
4 regulations required by chapter 36.70A RCW and to encourage and  
5 increase the information and resources available to the public and to  
6 foster voluntary activities by citizens to improve their environment.

7       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 36.70A RCW  
8 to read as follows:

9       To aid in carrying out the comprehensive plans and development  
10 regulations required by this chapter, counties and cities shall employ  
11 voluntary measures, incentives, and educational programs, to the  
12 greatest extent possible, where they can be effective.

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